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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Symphimus leucostomus Cope, 1869 (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae): Distribution extension in the Pacific lowlands of Oaxaca, Mexico

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ABSTRACT: An adult *Symphimus leucostomus* Cope, 1869, was found 2 km N of the village La Cofradía, in the Municipality of San Pedro Mixtepec, state of Oaxaca, México. This record represents the southernmost location of the species, and fills a gap between reported localities in southeastern Oaxaca in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and the mouth of the Balsas River in the state of Michoacán.

Symphimus leucostomus Cope, 1869, is an insectivorous colubrid with diurnal, terrestrial and semi-arboreal habits (García-Aguayo and Ceballos 1994; Ramírez-Bautista 1994; Köhler 2008). This species is distributed along the Pacific slopes of Mexico, from Jalisco to Chiapas (Smith and Taylor 1945; Johnson 1973; García-Aguayo and Ceballos 1994; Ramírez-Bautista 1994; Casas-Andreu et al. 1996, 2004; Köhler 2008) inhabiting tropical deciduous and semi-deciduous forest, thorn woodland, and pine-oak forest (Ramírez-Bautista 1994; Johnson *et al*. 2010). So far, reports of *S. leucostomus* have come either from the northwestern part of its range in Jalisco and Michoacán (Flores-Villela et al. 1991; García-Aguayo and Ceballos 1994; Ramírez-Bautista 1994; García-Aguayo and Muñoz-Alonso 2007), or from the other extreme in southeastern Oaxaca and southwestern Chiapas (Hartweg and Oliver 1940; Smith and Taylor 1945; Johnson 1973; Johnson and Knight 1978). In the state of Oaxaca, *S. leucostomus* has been reported from towns such as Tres Cruces, Chihuitan, Mixtequilla, and 11.2 km N of La Ventosa (Hartweg and Oliver 1940; Smith and Taylor 1945; Johnson 1978); all of them located in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec.

Herein, we provide another account on the distribution of *S. leucostomus* as a result of systematic field trips to the Yerba Santa River from January 2010 to March 2011 in the Municipality of San Pedro Mixtepec, Oaxaca. On 3 March 2011 at 09:45 h an adult male *S. leucostomus* (total length 580 mm) (Figure 1) was found crawling on a trail along the Yerba Santa River (15°57'29" N, 97°04'22" W, 313 m elevation) approximately 2.3 km NE from the community of La Cofradía. Habitat in the area consists of tropical deciduous forest. The snake was measured, photographed, and then released at the site of capture. Photographic vouchers (FCHU0135, FCHU0136, FCHU0137) were deposited in the photographic collection of the Universidad del Mar campus Puerto Escondido.

This is the first record from the Municipality of San Pedro Mixtepec. It not only represents the southernmost geographic record of *S. leucostomus*, but it also fills a large gap between the closest reported localities: approximately 198 km ENE near Mixtequilla in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec (Hartweg and Oliver 1940), and approximately 580 km WNW at the mouth of the Balsas River in Michoacán (García-Aguayo and Muñoz-Alonso 2007), (Figure 2). It is desirable that more information on the distribution of this Mexican species is promptly gathered given that there are still many gaps in its distribution, especially in the southwestern part of Oaxaca, and in Guerrero and Colima.

FIGURE 1. *Symphimus leucostomus*, found on a trail near La Cofradía, San Pedro Mixtepec, Oaxaca. Photograph by Jesús García Grajales (FCHU0135).

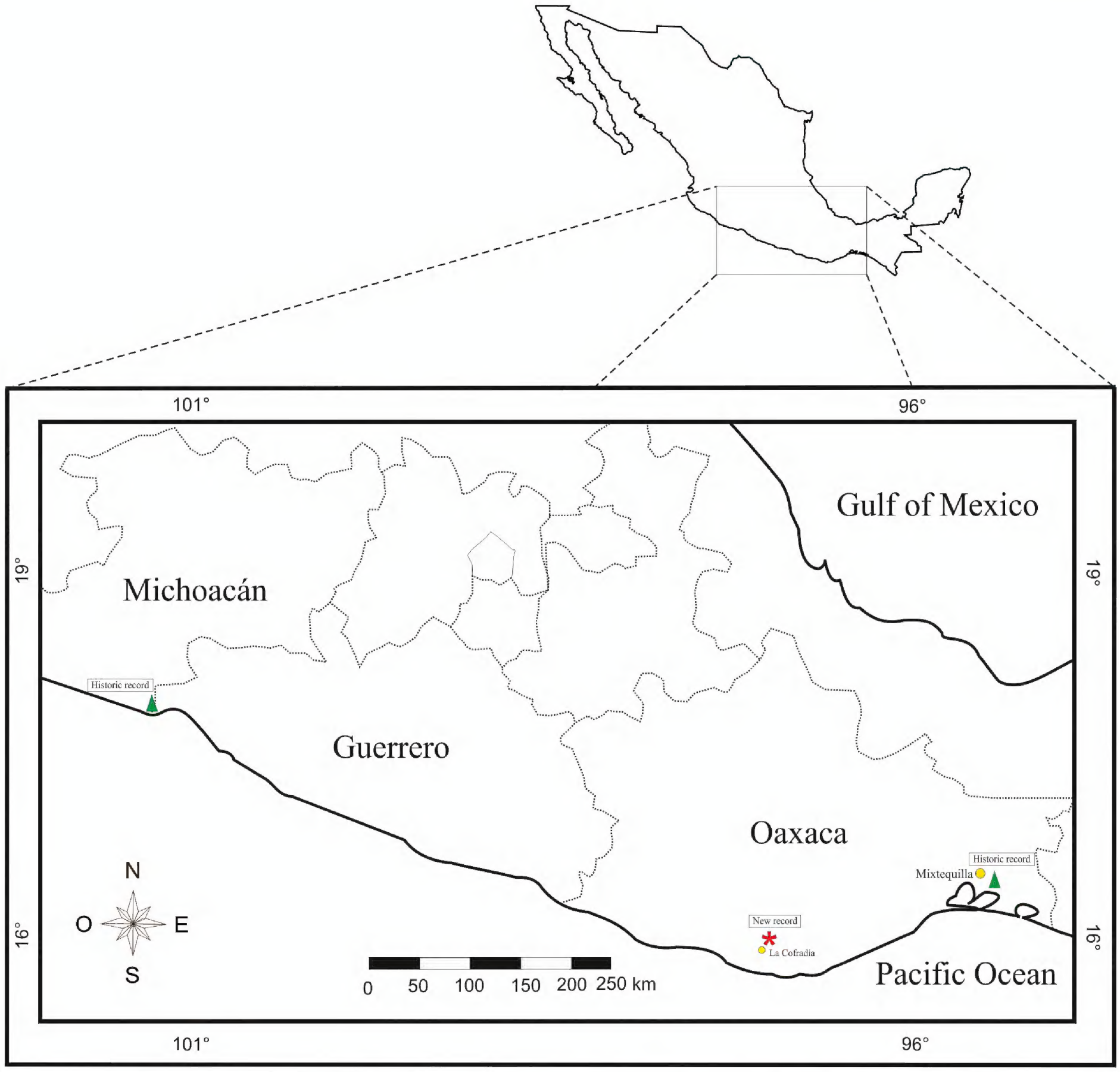

Figure 2. A map depicting the new reported locality (red asterisk) and the two nearest previously reported localities (green triangles) of *Symphimus leucostomus*.

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